

4-2001

## Museletter: April/May 2001

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### Recommended Citation

Zwirner, Gail F, "Museletter: April/May 2001" (2001). *Museletter*. Book 48.  
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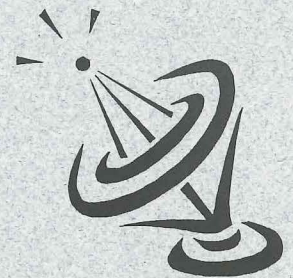
# Museletter

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## CUT THE CORD!: UR IMPLEMENTS WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

In the summer of 2000, University of Richmond's Information Services, in collaboration with the Law School, selected the Moot Court room as one of two areas on campus to receive a trial Cisco wireless system for testing. With these trials, Information Services is determining whether the functionality and speed of wireless technology will meet the needs of the University community. If wireless technology successfully meets this challenge, then students, staff and faculty would be free to move around the law building while still being connected to the network. In the future, if the University-wide network is upgraded to allow it, people would be free to move across campus while staying connected. Students would be able to gather together in information study groups in the library, the dining hall, or even outside.



The rationale behind installing the wireless network in the Moot Court room is to provide network support to faculty and students there, while maintaining the aesthetics of the room. Previously, network access had not been possible in the Moot Court room, because the necessary wiring would have unacceptably impacted the room's appearance. Wireless technology in the Moot Court room will also allow for more extensive use of technology in student mock trials and will allow faculty to gain access to legal web sites and other resources while teaching or presenting. This technology will make the Moot Court room more versatile and allow the Law School to schedule more classes in that space.

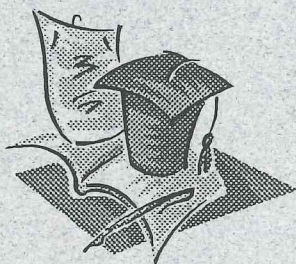
The wireless system used consists of two Cisco Access Points hung on the wall and fifty network wireless cards that can be inserted in student laptops. These all transmit/receive the IEEE standard of 802.11B (for non-techies, this is wireless network standard). Data is transmitted at the speed of 11 mbps from the law school network to a laptop. This is slower than the 100 mbps speed in the carrel network connections, but is dramatically faster than a 56k modem connection from home. The speed of wireless data transmission will depend on the number of people using each Access Point. Currently the signal originating in the Moot Court room is only good for approximately 165 feet in all directions (except in the direction of Rooms 101 and 102 where electrical equipment diminishes the signal).

**Are you ready for Wireless?**

Now that your interest has piqued, how exactly do you prepare your computer for a wireless card? The computer services staff has pushed the drivers (that is, the software that makes the hardware work) onto your computers through the intranet.

(continued, page 4)

**Best Wishes  
and  
Congratulations  
to the  
2001  
Graduates!**



The  
University of  
Richmond  
Law School  
is "Super-  
Connected."  
It ranked  
16th in the  
*National  
Jurist's* Most  
Wired Law  
School  
Survey for  
2001. UR is  
the highest  
ranked  
school of all  
Virginia law  
schools!

## Did You Have a Happy National Library Week?

By Joyce Manna Janto

Know what the best kept secret in the world is? That librarians are party animals! How else do you explain a profession that sponsors week long celebrations two or three times a year. The most recent library related fete was the celebration of National Library Week from April 1st through April 7th. While we did not join in the general jollity, many law libraries took the opportunity to celebrate their place in their parent organization. What exactly is National Library Week you may be asking yourself. Basically, it is a week set aside by the American Library Association to celebrate the value of libraries and librarians. The value of librarians??? Before you scoff, think about the time Gail Zwirner was able to help you complete an assignment by finding that elusive book in a library thousands of miles away and having it delivered to you. Or the time John Barden saved your paper by locating that 18th century English case. Or the time... get my point? Librarians are in the job of finding (as we like to say) the right piece of information for the right person at the right time. And the value of libraries? Think about this sometime. Imagine what your life would be like without access to the libraries you used (both school and public) while you were growing up. Or you could ask a realtor. They will tell you the three things that sell a house are good schools, convenient shopping and a good local library.

Aside from being party animals, librarians are also subversives. How else to explain Banned Books Week? This week, usually held in the late fall, celebrates those books that were banned by someone at some point in their history. Dangerous books like Snow White, Huck Finn, Harry Potter, and Catcher in the Rye. During this week librarians write editorials about the freedom of expression. They encourage the reading of banned books and the watching of banned movies. Censorship is a subject that librarians take very seriously. They have been at the forefront of movements challenging mandatory Internet filtering in public libraries. Librarians have fought and lost jobs over demands that "offensive" materials be removed from their libraries.

Librarian's love of freedom is not limited to the first amendment. Librarians are also passionate believers in the freedom of information. We have made a holiday of the birthday of James Madison, the author of the Bill of Rights. Every year on March 16th Freedom of Information Day is observed with the award of the "James Madison Award." This award is given to those who have championed the public's "right to know." Librarians have traditionally been active in the area of copyright, insuring that provisions of fair use are not endangered. The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), and many of its chapters, including the Virginia chapter, monitor federal and state legislation that deal with the provision of information to the public. On the national level, the AALL was effective in lobbying for changes to the Database Protection Act. Locally, librarians in Virginia fought unsuccessfully against the passage of UCITA. It was felt by the library community that this legislation unfairly pre-empted many protections allowed by the federal copyright laws.

So the next time you think about libraries or librarians, update your image. Libraries are not musty, dusty storehouses of old and useless books. They are storehouses of knowledge, treasure chests just waiting to be explored. And librarians? Get rid of the idea that we wear buns and sensible shoes. In reality we are the guerilla warriors in the cause of bringing information to anyone who needs or wants it, no matter what.

## 10 Tips for Summer Associate Research Survival: A View from a Former Law Firm Librarian

(Repeated by request, previously published in April 2000 *Museletter*)

**1. Ask questions.** Don't leave the supervising attorney's office until your information is clear. Ask about client charges. Don't be embarrassed to ask if the attorney has recommendations about where to start the research. There may be a very useful "pet" practitioner's tool that an academic library does not own that could be beneficial to the research. Obtain the deadline, format, and length of the assignment results. Secretaries can save time with format instruction. Librarians are terrific resources, but can't always read minds.

**2. Anticipate assignments you did not cover (or you avoided) in research classes in school.** Common summer assignments include legislative histories, regulatory research, business research, and use of ethics opinions. Bring *Kunz* with you as a ready reference resource.

**3. Plan your strategy.** Decide whether you have enough information to go directly to primary authority sources. You may benefit from consulting secondary sources first. (Many students have come back in the Fall and said "*Michie's [Jurisprudence]* was my friend.") Keep a log of the sources you have consulted.

**4. Assess your resources.** A firm's collection will not duplicate the sources you have had access to in law school. Consult the librarian about authority to use online sources or other options, such as CD-ROM or web-based products.

**5. Don't reinvent the wheel.** One resource consideration is a document file or memo bank. Many attorneys or firms invest a lot of time in organizing such files. There is no point in creating something that has already been started. Look at the client file. Perhaps all you'll need to do is update another memo. Your time is valuable.

**6. Use legal resource editing to your full advantage.** Legal publishers invest tremendous amounts of money in editorial enhancements. Look at the annotations and take advantage of those references.

**7. Know when to stop.** Could be your toughest decision. When you start seeing repeat patterns in your research, stop.

**8. Understand the authority and coverage of your research tools.** Make sure any website you use is authoritative and current. If you are looking for historical information, an online database or website may not provide adequate coverage.

**9. Update your research.** The supervising attorney should not have to ask if you've used a citator to update your research. "Bluebook" the memo also.

**10. Understand the team approach.** All members of a legal team are important in accomplishing the client's goals. Be respectful of non-attorney responsibilities, and how those skills can make your experience more effective.

—G.F.Z.

*Gail Zwirner worked for thirteen years in the library at Hunton & Williams in the Richmond office.*

### Carrel Information

By Deborah Barlett

Graduating 3Ls who are not staying for bar review, those students going into the clinics in the Fall, and students transferring or visiting out, must empty their carrels and return their keys to Mrs. Barlett in the Library Administrative Office (L17) prior to leaving town. Any student who has made arrangements through Mrs. Barlett to change carrels in the Fall must empty his or her present carrel and return the key prior to leaving for the summer break.

All other students should clean up their carrels prior to leaving for the summer. You may leave personal belongings in the locked compartment of your carrel only. Nothing should be left on the work surface, side walls, the top of the carrel, or on the floor. Housekeeping will clean the carrels during the summer. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

If you are not planning to use your carrel next year, please consider turning your carrel key in to Mrs. Barlett. There are other law students who may be able to use the carrel. You can still sign up for a carrel during the year for exams. Thank you.

(Wireless, continued from page 1)

To activate the software, the card is physically put into your computer, then it "plugs and plays." Depending on your comfort level, you can install the card yourself, or check out the card and bring it and your computer to the computer help desk for installation. Once the card makes friends with your computer, it is ready for use. This step is only done once. Thereafter, the card can be checked out and used freely.

#### Where do I get a Wireless Card?

The Cisco wireless cards are now available at the Circulation Desk. They are located in the Reserve Box Area. With your school identification card, you may check them out for four hours. Be warned — overdue wireless cards will result in the higher reserve item overdue charges.

*This article was contributed by James Wirrell, Alison Merner, and Kim Wiseman.*

**It's exam time!  
Please take  
conversations  
outside the library.**



## Spring Intersession & Summer Library Hours

### Spring Exam Period (Fri., Apr. 27 to Thurs., May 10)

Fri., Apr. 27:	7:30 am to Midnight
Sat., Apr. 28:	9:00 am to Midnight
Sun., Apr. 29:	10:00 am to Midnight
Mon., Apr. 30 to Thurs., May 3:	7:30 am to 1:00 am
Fri., May 4:	7:30 am to Midnight
Sat., May 5:	9:00 am to Midnight
Sun., May 6:	10:00 am to Midnight
Mon., May 7 to Thurs., May 10:	7:30 am to 1:00 am

### Spring Inter-Session (Fri., May 11 to Sun., May 13)

Fri., May 11:	7:30 am to 6:00 pm
Sat., May 12:	9:30 am to Noon
Sun., May 13:	CLOSED
Mon., May 14-Fri., May 18:	7:30 am to 6:00 pm
Sat., May 19:	CLOSED

### Summer Session & Exam Week (Sunday, May 20 to Friday, July 13)

Sunday:	10:00 am to 10:00 pm
Monday to Thursday:	7:30 am to 10:00 pm
Friday:	7:30 am to 8:00 pm
Saturday:	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
CLOSED:	Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day) Wednesday, July 4 (Independence Day)

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The Museletter is the official newsletter of the William Taylor Muse Law Library at the School of Law of the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173.

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